

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN MODERN GLOBALISATION

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The town where I live, or used to live, is called Ust-Kamenogorsk. Actually it is a usual town which is not the capital or financial centre of modern Kazakhstan. But the reason why I mention this city is that it is the place where you can find three metallurgical giants (every includes at least one plant), one power plant and one automobile plant. You cannot breath in this city and it is not exaggeration. I am quite sure that there a lot of locations on the territory of the former Soviet Union, where people just suffer from air and soil pollution. In most cases the main doers (if it is possible to say so) are not domestic, but foreign investors. These investors use not only cheap and qualified labour force, but also do not spend a cent on a necessary environmental protection in the countries they operate. Therefore it is today, but not tomorrow, when we should take active steps in the struggle against these violations.

I titled these essay as “Environmental Protection in modern Globalisation”, because we cannot stop Globalisation, our task is to eliminate or decrease the negative influences of this phenomenon. I do not want to write pathos speech which sometimes guarantees people their election, What I want is just to see, to learn and to suggest possible economic solutions to some negative aspects of environmental pollution.

What should be done in order to increase the effectiveness of the struggle for environmental protection:

1. Publicity (free access of media to the sources of information). People should know who is doing what. Who is guilty in recent gas emissions and etc.
2. Tax benefits. Companies who use environmental protection equipment and environmental friendly materials should be on preferential terms.
3. Struggle with corruption. Corruption is the enemy number one. But it is not corruption when a doctor takes 30 euros for his services, but when a minister takes 40 millions for increased emission standards!
4. Society awareness. People should behave according to the environmental protection principles. It is not companies, but the people who stand behind them are responsible for environmental pollution.

This is just to outline the possible issues which can be discussed during our workshops. I hope you, members of selection committee, will find my position to be valuable and invite me to visit your conference.